

TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. Selectmen present were James McIlroy, Janet Smith, and Wes Moore. Others present were Brian Hart of the Rockingham Land Trust, Alison Watts of the Newfields Conservation Commission, Deb Johnson and John Johnson.

Brian and Alison were in to update the Selectmen on the progress of the Cole property purchase. The Rockingham Land Trust has a \$130,000. commitment from the Newfields Conservation Commission, \$300,000. from the Piscassic Greenway funds (the donor gave the funds to the Rockingham Land Trust to be used for any of five specific properties including the Cole property). Funds donated in memory of William Mraz will be used for the Cole property. A grant will be submitted to the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. Other funds needed will be raised through fundraising – the residents of Newfields will not be asked to contribute any money towards this purchase.

The proceeds from the sale of the house and two acres will also be applied to the purchase price.

Brian complimented the Town of Newfields for a great job on the four conservation projects completed in Newfields.

Brian asked for a formal agreement between the Town and Rockingham Land Trust on the easement. James and Janet do not feel a formal agreement is needed at this time.

The final easements must be completed at least ninety days before closing. This gives the Federal Government enough time to review and approve the documents. The Land Trust will work with the lawyer the Town chooses for the easement.

The Selectmen reiterated that the Town has paid enough for conservation. It is fine for funds to be donated by the Newfields Conservation Commission, but they do not want any further bonds or to otherwise raise taxes in Newfields for conservation purposes.

Brian stated that the Rockingham Land Trust will pay for the title insurance, the hazardous waste inspection, and the updated title search.

Brian asked if the Selectmen would allow Alison to sign the grant application. The application only requires one signature and it is easier to contact Alison than it is to get the three Selectmen together. He gave a preliminary copy of the application to the Selectmen. Janet made a motion to allow Alison Watts to sign the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program Grant Application for the Town of Newfields. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

The Rockingham Land Trust will hold their annual meeting and then have a

celebration afterwards for the completion of the Piscassic Greenway purchase. All donors to the Greenway project will be invited and the RLT would like a Selectmen to speak at the event. They hope to have Senator Judd Gregg attend the event.

Deb Johnson and her son John Johnson were in to discuss the water problem at 52 Piscassic Road. Deb stated that she is very pleased with Town Planner, Reuben Hull's work with her.

Deb purchased the property in November, 2004 and made the following claims:

1. the swale was working properly until Evergreen Estates started construction
2. all of the vegetation in the swale and partially on her property was cut down and then thrown onto her property (not cleaned up and removed)
3. Deb said because of this action her swale got much larger, trees started pitching towards the road, her rock wall collapsed into the swale, and her driveway has partially collapsed
4. Deb said that the creek running through her property has doubled in size and other trees on her property have fallen because of the excessive water

The Selectmen advised Deb that her house is in the flood zone and her drainage ditch is in the 100 year flood zone.

The Department of Environmental Services is in charge of the site and review of the development because Route 87 is a state road. The Town is waiting for a written report from DES. Reuben Hull has been in touch with DES and has informed them of the urgency of this issue.

In Deb's opinion, it is not fair that water running downhill from Evergreen Estates is causing a hazardous condition on her property and her neighbors' property.

Wes asked Deb if she had any objection to him speaking with Pat Neal (the prior owner of the property). Deb said that was fine with her. She also mentioned that she has retained an Attorney to help her with this situation.

The Selectmen told Deb that they will do what they can to help her, but that they need to wait for the State DES report. Janet also recommended that Deb have before and after pictures of her property showing the affected areas.

The Selectmen signed checks.

The thank you letter from Seacoast Hospice for the Town's donation was read.

The update on the progress of the Exeter—Hampton District Court was reviewed.

The Lane Law Office invoice for work on the Piscassic Greenway was approved.

The Mortgage's Foreclosure Notice was read.

The correspondence with regard to the final inspection of the railroad bridge was read. It was agreed not to sign off with the State until the check is received by the Town for repairs necessary to Railroad Avenue.

The Route 108 bridge was officially named: "United States Submarine Veterans of WWII Memorial Bridge". Thank you to William Tebo for his help with the naming of the bridge.

The grant to the Fire Department of 22 radios from the Department of Safety was reviewed by the Selectmen.

The town received a copy of Fran Lane's letter to the auditors notifying them of a possible suit against the town with regard to the ongoing noise complaint.

Correspondence from Dragon Mosquito was received along with an invoice. The Selectmen reviewed the sites being monitored. They asked Nancy to contact Dragon Mosquito for clarification on whether or not they are spraying. It was the Selectmen's understanding that spraying would not be done and the correspondence indicates spraying will be done.

Civil Design's inquiry on billing for time he has spent working on the water issue at 52 Piscassic Road was discussed. He will bill the developer and the town for their shares.

David Dennehy informed the Town Office that Noah Tremblay has agreed to allow parking on his land at Town Landing. The area needs to be mowed (especially with the Memorial Day Celebration coming up). David wants to know if the company doing the town mowing would be able to mow this additional area. The Selectmen asked Nancy to obtain a price from Moulton Property Services for the additional mowing.

The Cash Flow Projection from SAU16 for the fiscal year 2006-2007 was reviewed. Nancy will ask Don Doane (Town Treasurer) if the figures are the same as expected.

The packets from Don's conference last week were reviewed.

Nancy was asked to invite the Library Trustees to the Selectmen's Meeting on either May 16th or May 30th to go over the auditor's findings.

Janet volunteered to contact the Local Government Center for clarification on the best way to handle the junkyard complaint for property located on Piscassic Road.

Wes volunteered to get the necessary dimensions for the Salt Shed Easement. He will either get the information from Brian Knipstein or pace the area himself.

Janet looked at the turnaround at the end of Halls Mill Road. She said there is a definite problem with Frysalis' being able to enter and exit their driveway. Nancy was asked to contact Reuben Hull and ask him to check the turnaround at the end of Halls Mill Road and compare it with the developer's responsibilities. The Selectmen would like to hear back from Reuben.

The Police Department Budget was discussed again – it was determined that a fourth full-time police officer was discussed prior to the vote in March and the salary for a fourth officer was included in the Police Department Budget.

The Selectmen discussed the allocation of the Current Use tax funds. The Conservation Commission will have the responsibility to maintain the Conservation Easements and Conservation Properties.

The Selectmen agreed that a personnel policy should be in effect. They will work diligently to get a policy in effect soon.

Wes made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 2, 2006 meeting as amended. James seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Wes made a motion to adjourn at 9:15pm. James seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer